



IFIN

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: Ulrich Birnbaum et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/638,179

FILED: August 7, 2003

FOR: CONNECTING ELEMENT FOR AN ASSEMBLY SYSTEM

EXAMINER: Victor L. MacArthur

GROUP: 3679

Mail Stop **AMENDMENT**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**ELECTION**

Sir:

In response to the election requirement dated February 10, 2005 the applicants elect species III, the embodiment as shown in Figs. 3, 3a, 4, 5.

The claims readable on the elected species are claims 1 to 15 and 19 to 21. It is noted that claim 1 is generic.

While the Figs. 1, 2 and 6 do not illustrate a fastening element as indicated in the specification, the elongated openings are arranged to receive fastening elements. The fastening elements depend on the assembly system to

which the connecting elements are secured.

Respectfully submitted,



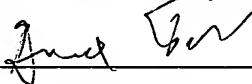
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March 10, 2005

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail and addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 10, 2005.



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David Toren